

THE GAZETTE.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 1858.

INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS.

We had occasion, in a recent article, to speak of the decline of oratory in our country, both at the bar and in our legislative assemblies. In recurring to this subject, we may now remark that, while the gift is less cultivated and, indeed, less valued than formerly, the art of writing is becoming more and more a power in the State. The influence of the press, both in this country and in England, is prodigious. It is, in fact, the governing power. So well is this understood in the latter country, that we are told by a writer in the *Scottish American*, that "a post of influence in connection with the press is more valued by men of sense than a seat in the House of Commons. The editor of the *Times* holds up his hand, as he will say, and tells Lord Derby that he considers his position a prouder one than that of any party leader, be he commoner or nobleman. As a writer for the same paper, Mr. Lowe is more highly thought of than a speaker in the House of Commons, and the member of the government." "The men of the pen are rising above the men of the tongue."

A very significant acknowledgment of the influence which the press exerts upon public opinion, and the wholesome foundation in exercises over men in authority is found in the reception which Mr. Russell, the *Times* correspondent, met with on his arrival in India. He was received by the big wig, says the *Calcutta correspondent* of the *Madras Examiner*, with great distinction, "and Lord Canning hastened to his house to dinner and show him every politeness in his power. He has been fawned upon and caressed by the higher grades of civilisation, and an immense parade of candor has been shown on all sides; and, what is still more odd, he has been allowed access to documents which have been kept religiously hidden from all other eyes. Every facility was given him to reach Allahabad in safety and comfort, and it was really delightful to see the hero he inspires wherever he goes. If he does not get talked over by the civil elite, and does his duty honestly and well, he may yet do an immense deal of good for India, and all of us."

The care that is bestowed, and the thought and ability employed in the production of a daily newspaper of the better class, are scarcely appreciable by the reader. Things that are rare and only procurable with difficulty are prized accordingly; but a newspaper, like air and sunshine, comes so regularly and at so little cost, that we overlook or cease to reflect upon the various labor and activity that are required to sustain its diurnal existence. Yet what variety of information, what amount of argument upon contested points of politics, of science, art, and literature do its columns contain! Men's opinions are moulded, and their action guided by the press, and this almost unconsciously to themselves. A book may be read, and its contents forgotten; but the press is like a continual fall of water upon the rock. At first it may have no perceptible effect; but it comes at last to stamp its impress even upon the hardest and most persisting surface. In fact, the newspapers do a great deal of the best thinking for the community. They lead, they guide opinion. No doubt, upon certain points, and at certain times, they speak the preconceived sentiments of their readers; but, for the most part, they are the original springs of public opinion and public action. We are very far from asserting that the influence of the press is always beneficial. It has done a great deal of mischief; but that the good which belongs to it is out of all proportion to the evils, is amply demonstrated by its existence in two such countries as Great Britain and the United States.—*Phil. American.*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Query—Lola Montez says the Turkish ladies fast three days on peas and rose leaves and butter. Is that so, and how used? Will some other simple thing have a tendency to fatten the lean kind who are incapable of digesting the coarser fattening articles, such as pork, the fat of beef, &c?

Answer—Madame Montez, we conceive, is in error, and has been misled by one of the subtle stories of the Persian poet Hafiz. Eat little meat and an abundance of farinaceous food; drink plenty of water, and acquire habits of indolence. You will then grow "fat as butter." We are serious.

Query—How long is an express company compelled to keep a package before selling it to pay expenses? What are their liabilities and rights as to charge?

Answer—The carrier or expressman has a right to demand payment when he receives the goods. He may refuse to take them if not so paid; but if he takes them to be paid at the other end of the route, he can retain them until "settled for" on his arrival there; and on the expiration of one year, he may sell them to meet his charges. In this state, special notices and special contracts, by common carriers, are held to be against the policy of the law, and therefore utterly void.—The courts also hold that the notice that "all baggage is at the risk of the owners," is a nullity; but the carrier may require the freighter to disclose the nature and value of the property or make a special acceptance.

Query—What is the origin of the saying "Sardonic laugh?"

Answer—In the island of Sardinia is found a poisonous herb, which, when eaten, contracts the nerves, and produces a distortion of the mouth resembling laughter, called a Sardonic laugh, in which the patient dies.

Query—Please give the author of the apothegm, "To the victors belong the spoils?"

Answer—It is usually accredited to the late William L. Marcy.—*N. Y. Times.*

SUMMER DRINKS.—Silver Medal premium MINERAL WATERS, Carbonated Champagne, and pure CRAB CIDER, ALE and PORTER, several varieties, all of them superior to, and cheaper than any now to be had in town; TEMPERANCE CREAM MEAD, an excellent article for children and adults liable to constipation.

LAGER BEER, now so highly recommended by Physicians. All the above articles for sale at our depot, No. 38, North Water street, Alexandria.

Excursions and persons out of town, furnished on short notice, by leaving orders at above place, with our wagon, or by rail.

NOTICE TO THE OWNERS OF DOGS.—All persons having DOGS, are required to apply to the Auditor for Licenses, on or before the 10th day of June. The law will be strictly enforced against those failing to do so.

LOTTERY ADVERTISEMENTS.

BRILLIANT SCHEMES FOR JUNE, 1858.

GREGORY & MAURY, Managers.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

To be drawn under the Superintendence of Commissioners appointed by the Governor.

40,000 DOLLARS!

LOTTERY for the benefit of the State of Delaware, Class 127, for 1858, to be drawn at Wilmington, Delaware, on SATURDAY, June 12th, 1858.

75 Number Lottery—12 drawn ballots.

SPLENDID SCHEME!

1 prize of \$10,000 10 prizes of \$4,000

1 prize of 15,000 10 do of 3,000

1 do of 8,000 10 do of 500

1 do of 5,000 40 do of 250

1 do of 4,000 40 do of 100

1 do of 3,000 40 do of 50

1 do of 2,000 40 do of 25

1 do of 1,000 40 do of 10

1 do of 500 40 do of 5

1 do of 250 40 do of 2

1 do of 100 40 do of 1

1 do of 50 40 do of 1/2

1 do of 25 40 do of 1/4

1 do of 10 40 do of 1/8

1 do of 5 40 do of 1/16

1 do of 2 40 do of 1/32

1 do of 1 40 do of 1/64

1 do of 1/2 40 do of 1/128

1 do of 1/4 40 do of 1/256

1 do of 1/8 40 do of 1/512

1 do of 1/16 40 do of 1/1024

1 do of 1/32 40 do of 1/2048

1 do of 1/64 40 do of 1/4096

1 do of 1/128 40 do of 1/8192

1 do of 1/256 40 do of 1/16384

1 do of 1/512 40 do of 1/32768

1 do of 1/1024 40 do of 1/65536

1 do of 1/2048 40 do of 1/131072

1 do of 1/4096 40 do of 1/262144

1 do of 1/8192 40 do of 1/524288

1 do of 1/16384 40 do of 1/1048576

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LOTTERY ADVERTISEMENT.

A LOTTERY OF \$70,000 to be had for \$10.

SWAN & CO'S LOTTERIES—AUTHORIZED

BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA.—The following

Managers will be drawn by S. SWAN & CO.

Managers of the SPANISH LOTTERY, in

1858, at AUGUSTA, Georgia, in public, under

the superintendence of Commissioners.

Class 19, to be drawn in the city of Augusta,

Ga., in public, on Saturday, June 12th, 1858.

Class 20, to be drawn in the city of Augusta,

Ga., in public, on Saturday, June 19th, 1858.

Class 21, to be drawn in the city of Augusta,

Ga., in public, on Saturday, June 26th, 1858.

On the Plan of SIMPLE NUMBERS.

5,485 Prizes—Nearly one Prize to every 7 Tickets!

MAGNIFICENT SCHEME!

To be drawn each SATURDAY in JUNE.

1 Prize of \$10,000 4 Prizes of \$900

1 " " 3,000 4 " " 700

1 " " 1,000 4 " " 500

1 " " 500 4 " " 250

1 " " 250 4 " " 100

1 " " 100 4 " " 50

1 " " 50 4 " " 25

1 " " 25 4 " " 10

1 " " 10 4 " " 5

1 " " 5 4 " " 2

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